

Surgical Treatment of Epilepsy.—The *Cincinnati Lancet and Observer* (June, 1861) has an interesting paper on this subject, by Dr. J. S. BILLINGS, with some valuable statistical tables which we copy.

1. *Trephining the Skull.*—This operation has been performed in a number of cases in which the disease resulted from injury to the head. Dr. B. gives the following table of seventy-two cases :—

Operator.	Result.	Where reported.
Coates	Cure . . .	Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, 1806.
Wells	Cure . . .	Trans. of Soc. for Imp. of Medicine and Surgery, 1812.
Howship	Death . . .	Abercrombie on Diseases of the Brain, p. 196.
Crampton	Cure . . .	Dublin Hospital Reports, vol. i.
Bernard	No change .	Gazette des Hopitaux, April, 1846.
Birch	Cure . . .	Sir A. Cooper's Lectures on Surgery, vol. i.
Riboli	Cure . . .	London Medical and Surgical Journal, 1826.
Rhodius	Cure . . .	Centur 1, obs. 66.
Steidele	Death . . .	Chirurgische Beobachtungen.
Farre	Death . . .	Sir A. Cooper's Lectures, vol. i. p. 170.
Fricke	Death . . .	Bruns' Chirurgie.
Riencke	Death . . .	Bruns' Chirurgie.
Marchetti	Cure . . .	Dictionnaire des Science Médicale, art. Epilepsie.
Boyer	Death . . .	Dictionnaire des Science Médicale, art. Epilepsie.
Boncher	Cure . . .	Dictionnaire des Science Médicale, art. Trepan.
La Motte	Cure . . .	Dictionnaire des Science Médicale, art. Trepan.
B. Bell, two cases	Both fatal .	Bell's Surgery, vol. ii.
Do. do.	No change .	Bell's Surgery, vol. ii.
Buch	Cure . . .	Travers on Constitutional Irritation.
Blake	Cure . . .	London Medical and Physiological Journal.
Johnson	Cure . . .	Virginia Medical Journal, 1837.
Howard	Improvement	Transactions of State Medical Society of Ohio, 1843.
Hulihen	Cure . . .	Reported to me by Dr. Boerstler.
Gross, three cases	All fatal .	Gross' Surgery, vol. ii.
Kite	Cure . . .	Bruns' Chirurgie.
Robertson	Cure . . .	Gazette Médicale, 1848.
Wurm	Cure . . .	Surgical Writings of Schmucker, 1776.
Gross	No change .	Gross' Surgery, vol. ii.
Tripler	Death . . .	
Palmer	Cure . . .	London Medical Gazette, vol. xvii.
Warren, two cases	Cured . . .	Boston Medical Magazine, vol. i.
Brainard	No change .	Chicago Medical Journal, 1859.
Do. . . .	Improvement	Chicago Medical Journal, 1859.
Do., four cases	All cured .	Chicago Medical Journal, 1859.
Elliott	Cure . . .	Transylvania Journal of Medicine, vol. ii.
Dudley	Improvement	Transylvania Journal of Medicine, vol. i.
Do., four cases	Cured . . .	Transylvania Journal of Medicine, vol. i.
Rogers	Improvement	New York Medical and Physiological Journal, vol. v.
Dixon	Cure . . .	Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, vol. xxxi.
Pancoast	Cure . . .	Philadelphia Medical Examiner, 1849.
Pope	Cure . . .	St. Louis Medical and Surgical Journal, vol. vii.
Guild	Cure . . .	American Journal of Medical Sciences, vol. iv.
Hayward	Cure . . .	Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, 1838.
Hobson	Cure . . .	Western Lancet, vol. ix.
Do., two cases	Cured . . .	Western Lancet, vol. ix.
Do. . . .	No change .	Western Lancet, vol. ix.
Yandell	Improvement	Western Journal of Medicine and Surgery, vol. vii.
Cadwall	Cure . . .	Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, vol. xxvii.
Hayward	Cure . . .	Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, vol. xxviii.
Trowbridge	Cure . . .	Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, vol. xxviii.
Do. . . .	Cure . . .	Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, vol. xxviii.
Hayward	Improvement	Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, vol. xxiv.
Mitchell	Cure . . .	Materia Medica and Therapeutics.
Wells	Improvement	Essays on Pathology and Therapeutics, by Dickson.
Campbell	Cure . . .	American Journal of Medical Sciences, vol. xii.
Yeates	Cure . . .	American Journal of Medical Sciences, Jan. 1860.
Blackman, one case	Improvement	
Do., two cases	Death . . .	
Edwards, two cases	Death . . .	

Making in all seventy-two cases, of which sixteen proved fatal, or 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Forty-two cases are reported as cured, four unchanged, and the remainder improved, but not entirely relieved.

In addition to those mentioned in the table, several cases have been reported by Dr. Stone, of New Orleans, but Dr. B. has not been able to obtain access to the journals containing them.

This operation has been also recommended in cases which had not been the result of injury, but the statistics have not been collected.

2. *Ligature of one or both Carotids.*—The following table gives the result of all the cases in which this operation has been performed, which Dr. B. has been able to find:—

Operator.	Result.	Where reported.
Boileau	Cure	Journal Univ. des Science Médicale, 1825.
McClellan	Improvement	American Medical Review, vol. iii.
Becton	No change . .	North American Medical and Surgical Journal, 1827.
Preston, three cases	All improved	Trans. Med. and Phys. Soc. of Calcutta, vols. v. and vi.
Hamilton	Cure	Buffalo Medical Journal, vol. ii.
Angell	Cure	North American Medico-Chirurgical Review, 1858.
Do. . . .	Death	North American Medico-Chirurgical Review, 1858.
Brown, U. S. A. .	Cure	Peninsular Journal.
Weber	No change . .	Peninsular Journal, 1859.

Making in all eleven cases: four cures, four improved, two no change, and one death.

The theory which gave rise to this operation was, that the disease was caused by an excess of blood carried to the head, as evinced by the flushed face and turgid, swollen condition of the veins of the neck during an attack.

Castration for Epilepsy.—Dr. L. ROOKER records (*Cincinnati Lancet and Observer*, May, 1861) a case of epilepsy in a man, 35 years of age, resulting from self-abuse, to desist from which he found impossible. His expression was idiotic, and he avoided society, particularly that of females, for which last he had an abhorrence. On the 21st of January, 1861, Dr. R. performed double castration, and at the date of the last report (April 20) the patient is said to be improving admirably, and has had no fit since the operation. He says he has lost his inclination for masturbation.

We hope the author will report the future history of the case, as it would be premature as yet to pronounce the operation successful.

Ligature of the Primitive Carotid Artery, for Wound of the Internal Maxillary Artery; Recovery.—Dr. J. C. HUTCHINSON, Professor of Operative Surgery in Long Island College Hospital, records (*Am. Med. Times*, April 20, 1861) a case of this. The subject of it was a blacksmith, 35 years of age, who, on the 11th Sept., received several wounds with an iron punch, the most serious of which was half an inch in front of the external left auditory meatus. He bled profusely at the time, and again for three or four hours afterwards. The bleeding recurred on the 24th Sept., but was stopped by the application of the solution of persulphate of iron. Early in the evening the hemorrhage again recurred; the patient was very pallid, and as the source of hemorrhage was deeply seated, and the vessel could not be reached at the point of injury without making extensive incisions which would involve the parotid gland and the important nerves and vessels it contains, Dr. Hutchinson thought it judicious to ligate the common carotid artery. This he did with the counsel and assistance of Drs. Hamilton and Kissam. He made the usual incision, and tied the vessel above the omo-hyoid muscle. This completely controlled the hemorrhage. The ligature came away on the 22d day, and the patient improved steadily. Owing to the division of some of the branches of the facial nerve, by the incisions made to enlarge the wound, there is paralysis of the left orbicularis muscle.